

RM-9242

FREE RADIO ASHEVILLE

PO Box 1485
Asheville, NC 28802

November 18, 1998

Charles H. Taylor
Member of Congress
231 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Mr. Taylor,

I had a brief and enjoyable meeting early in October with your Legislative Counsel, Sean Dalton, regarding the issues surrounding low power FM broadcasting -- also known as "pirate radio". We discussed briefly the dangers posed to freedom of speech by the current FCC policy of selling broadcast licenses to the highest bidder, and the concentration of media in fewer and fewer hands. At that time, I told Sean that I would follow our discussion with a letter to you, which I expected would be comments related to FCC funding requests for the next budget.

I will send these comments at an appropriate time. At the present I have reliable information that the FCC is considering new rules regarding low power FM broadcasting, and would like to share with you and the FCC commissioners the thoughts that follow. They represent the opinion of most of the members of our station, including those who consider appeals such as this a waste of time.

1. We believe that this country is best served by broadcast media that is truly free, and the enormous costs now required for licensing effectively exclude all but the rich from broadcast media.
2. We know that our local broadcasts represent a significant portion of the Asheville community -- people who have no voice in other media. We consider this representation a pleasure and a duty, and believe that to broadcast legally would be the most efficient way to do this. We earnestly hope that the FCC will provide a low power license to this end.
3. We consider low power FM broadcasting to be an exercise of free speech.

We hope that you share our concerns, and will communicate them to the FCC.

Sincerely,

Robert Brown

Robert Brown, for Free Radio Asheville

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